GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:668
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
ALARMING RATE OF T.B.
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank and the World Health Organisation have issued a joint warning to the international community that tuberculosis is spreading globally at an alarming rate;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether they have suggested certain measures for combating T.B.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. They have stated that with a death toll of nearly two million people would wide last year alone. TB`s deadly association with the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its growing drug resistance, TB is an imminent public health emergency.

(c) & (d) These agencies are seeking the expansion of national access to DOTS a strategy under which drugs are given under the direct observation of a health worker to ensure compliance. They have appealed to Governments in both developed and developing worlds to substantially increase their financial backing for combating T.B. They want all countries to reach T.B. control targets of 70 percent detection of smear positive cases and 85 percent cure rate of these new cases detected by 2005.

(e) Government is committed to expand its efforts for T.B. control in India. The Revised National T.B. Control Programme using DOTS strategy is being implemented in a phased manner. Coverage has increased from about 20 million in end 98 to about 440 million population at present. It is envisaged to cover 500 million population by 2002 and 800 million population by 2004.